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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 8216

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State of Washington                      62nd Legislature                      2011 Regular Session

By Senators Benton, Roach, Stevens, Morton, Zarelli, Swecker, Holmquist Newbry, Becker, Baumgartner, Hewitt, Hill, Ericksen, Carrell, Schoesler, Baxter, King, and Parlette

Read first time 02/24/11. Referred to Committee on Ways & Means.

1            BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
2 STATE OF WASHINGTON, IN LEGISLATIVE SESSION ASSEMBLED:

3            THAT, At the next general election to be held in this state the  
4 secretary of state shall submit to the qualified voters of the state  
5 for their approval and ratification, or rejection, an amendment to  
6 Article VIII of the Constitution of the state of Washington by adding  
7 a new section to read as follows:

8            Article VIII, section . . . (1) A state expenditure limit is  
9 established, effective for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2012, and  
10 thereafter. The state expenditure limit for any fiscal year shall be  
11 the previous fiscal year's state expenditure limit increased by a  
12 percentage rate that equals the fiscal growth factor. For purposes of  
13 this section, "fiscal growth factor" means the average of the sum of  
14 inflation and state population change for each of the prior three  
15 years.

16            (2) The state shall not expend from the state general fund and  
17 related funds during any fiscal year state moneys in excess of the  
18 state expenditure limit established under this section, except pursuant

1 to an emergency declared in law by a favorable vote of three-fifths of  
2 the members elected to each house of the legislature.

3 (3) The state expenditure limit shall be adjusted at least annually  
4 as follows:

5 (a) The limit shall be adjusted for the prior year based on actual  
6 expenditures and known changes in the fiscal growth factor, as defined  
7 by law.

8 (b) If the cost of any state program, activity, or function is  
9 shifted from the state general fund or a related fund to another source  
10 of funding, or if moneys are transferred from the state general fund or  
11 related fund to another fund or account, the limit is lowered by the  
12 dollar amount of the shift. For the purposes of this subsection, a  
13 transfer of money from the state general fund or a related fund to  
14 another fund or account includes any state legislative action that has  
15 the effect of reducing revenues from a particular source, when such  
16 revenues would otherwise be deposited in the state general fund or a  
17 related fund, while increasing the revenues from that particular source  
18 to another state or local government account.

19 (c) If, on or after January 1, 2012, the cost of any state program,  
20 activity, or function and the ongoing revenue necessary to fund the  
21 program, activity, or function are shifted to the state general fund or  
22 a related fund from another fund or account, the limit shall be  
23 increased by the dollar amount of the shift.

24 (d) If by order of any court, or legislative enactment, the cost of  
25 a federal or local government program is transferred to or from the  
26 state, the otherwise applicable state expenditure limit shall be  
27 increased or decreased, as the case may be, by the dollar amount of the  
28 cost of the program.

29 (4) The legislature shall not impose responsibility for a new  
30 program or increased level of service under an existing program on any  
31 political subdivision of the state unless the legislature makes  
32 provision, in a manner determined by the legislature, for the costs of  
33 the new program or increased level of service.

34 (5) The legislature may enact appropriate laws to carry out the  
35 purposes of this section.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this amendment is a single amendment  
37 within the meaning of Article XXIII, section 1 of the state  
38 Constitution.

1       The legislature finds that the changes contained in this amendment  
2 constitute a single integrated plan for establishing a state  
3 expenditure limit. If this amendment is held to be separate  
4 amendments, this joint resolution is void in its entirety and is of no  
5 further force and effect.

6       BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the secretary of state shall cause  
7 notice of the foregoing constitutional amendment to be published at  
8 least four times during the four weeks next preceding the election in  
9 every legal newspaper in the state.

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